

CLAIMS

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1 - Fax machine (14) designed to be connected to a telephone network (100) and to communicate with corresponding fax machines (15) across a computer network of the Internet type (101), the fax machines (14, 15) each having an electronic address on the aforesaid computer network (101), characterised by the fact that it has memory means (10) for storing a record (11) of the fax machine communications with corresponding fax machines, containing the electronic addresses of the aforesaid corresponding fax machines, means (9) for managing the record (11), for extracting the electronic addresses and associating them with the corresponding fax machines and means for asking a corresponding fax machine (15) for its electronic address, during a communication with the aforesaid corresponding fax machine (15) across the telephone network (100), the aforesaid means for managing the record being adapted for entering the aforesaid electronic address of the corresponding fax machine (15) into the record (11).

2 - Fax machine (14) in accordance with claim 1, in which, means (1, 2) being provided to receive a fax transmitted from a corresponding fax machine (15) across the aforesaid computer network (101) and associated with the electronic address on the computer network of the said corresponding fax machine (15), the means (9) for managing the record (11) are organised, upon receipt of the fax, to enter the electronic address of the aforesaid corresponding fax machine (15) into the record (11).

3 - Fax machine (14) in accordance with claim 1, in which, means (1, 2) being provided to send to a corresponding fax machine (15), via the computer network (101), a fax associated with the electronic address on the computer network of the corresponding fax machine (15), the means (9) for managing the record (11) are adapted to enter the electronic address of the aforesaid corresponding fax machine (15) into the record (11) prior to sending the fax.

4 - Fax machine (14) in accordance with claim 1, in which, since each electronic address contains identification data, the means (9) for managing the record (11) are organised to extract the aforesaid identification data from each address of a corresponding fax machine (15) and to associate the data with the aforesaid address in the record (11).

5 - Fax machine in accordance with claim 4, in which the means for managing the record are organised to compare the identification data extracted from each new electronic address relating to a corresponding fax machine with the identification data associated with the electronic addresses stored in the record in order to check whether the aforesaid identification data is already associated with an electronic address in the record.

6 - Fax machine in accordance with claim 5, in which, where the identification data extracted from the new electronic address is already associated with an electronic address in the record, the means for managing the record are organised to compare the electronic address held in the record with the new electronic address and, where they are not identical, to replace the former with the latter in the record.

7 - Fax machine in accordance with claim 1, in which, since the memory means (10) have a limited storage capacity, when the aforesaid memory means (10) are full, the means (9) for managing the record (11) are organised to erase the oldest electronic address in the memory means (10) prior to entering a new electronic address.